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### Linkage disequilibrium between the rapid CYP2C19\*17 allele and wildtype CYP2C8 and CYP2C9 alleles: Identification of CYP2C haplotypes in healthy Nordic populations

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Complete List of Authors:	Pedersen, Rasmus; University of Southern Denmark, Clinical Pharmacology Brasch-Andersen, Charlotte; University of Southern Denmark, Clinical Pharmacology Sim, Sarah; Karolinska Institutet, Section of Pharmacogenetics, Department of Pharmacology and Physiology Bergmann, Troels; University of Southern Denmark, Clinical Pharmacology Halling, Jónrit; The Faroese Hospital System, Department of Occupational Medicines and Public Health Petersen, Maria; The Faroese Hospital System, Department of Occupational Medicines and Public Health Weihe, Pál; The Faroese Hospital System, Department of Occupational Medicines and Public Health Edvardsen, Hege; Oslo University Hospital, Radiumhospitalet, Department of Genetics Kristensen, Vessela; Oslo University Hospital, Radiumhospitalet, Department of Genetics Brosen, Kim; University of Southern Denmark, Clinical Pharmacology Ingelman-Sundberg, Magnus; Karolinska Institutet, Section of Pharmacogenetics, Department of Pharmacology and Physiology



## Linkage disequilibrium between the CYP2C19\*17 allele and wildtype CYP2C8 and CYP2C9 alleles: Identification of CYP2C haplotypes in healthy Nordic populations

Comment [RP1]: The word "rapid" has been removed from the Title

Rasmus S. Pedersen<sup>1,2</sup>, Charlotte Brasch-Andersen<sup>1</sup> Sarah C. Sim<sup>2</sup>, Troels K. Bergmann<sup>1</sup>, Jónrit Halling<sup>1,3</sup>, Maria S. Petersen<sup>1,3</sup>, Pál Weihe<sup>3</sup>, Hege Edvardsen<sup>4,5</sup>, Vessela N. Kristensen<sup>4,5,6</sup>, Kim Brøsen<sup>1</sup> and Magnus Ingelman-Sundberg<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institute of Public Health, Clinical Pharmacology, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark

<sup>2</sup>Section of Pharmacogenetics, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

<sup>3</sup>Department of Occupational Medicines and Public Health, The Faroese Hospital System, Tòrshavn, Faroe Islands

<sup>4</sup>Department of Genetics, Institute of Cancer Research, Oslo University Hospital Radiumhospitalet, Oslo, Norway

<sup>5</sup>Institute of Clinical Medicine, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway

<sup>6</sup>EpiGen, Institute for Clinical Medicine, Akershus University Hospital, Oslo, Norway

#### Correspondence:

Rasmus Steen Pedersen, Institute of Public Health, Clinical Pharmacology, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark. E-mail: <a href="mailto:rpedersen@health.sdu.dk">rpedersen@health.sdu.dk</a>. Phone: +45 65503305. Fax: +45 65916089

#### **Abstract**

*Purpose*. To determine the distribution of clinically important *CYP2C* genotypes and allele frequencies in healthy Nordic populations with special focus on linkage disequilibrium.

*Methods*. 896 healthy subjects from three Nordic populations (Faroese, Danish and Norwegian) were genotyped for five frequent and clinically important *CYP2C* allelic variants: the defective *CYP2C8\*3*, *CYP2C9\*2*, *CYP2C9\*3* and *CYP2C19\*2* alleles, and the *CYP2C19\*17* allele that causes rapid drug metabolism. Linkage disequilibrium was evaluated and *CYP2C* haplotypes were inferred in the entire population.

Results. Ten CYP2C haplotypes were inferred of which the most frequent (49%) was the CYP2C wildtype haplotype carrying CYP2C8\*1, CYP2C9\*1 and CYP2C19\*1. The second most frequent haplotype (19%) is composed by CYP2C19\*17, CYP2C8\*1 and CYP2C9\*1. This predicted haplotype accounts for 99.7% of the CYP2C19\*17 alleles found in the 896 subjects.

Conclusion. CYP2C19\*17 is a frequent genetic variant in Nordic populations that exists in strong linkage disequilibrium with wild type CYP2C8\*1 and CYP2C9\*1 alleles, which effectively makes it a determinant for a haplotype exhibiting efficient CYP2C substrate metabolism.

#### Introduction

Human cytochrome P450 2C (CYP2C) enzymes are responsible for the metabolism of approximately 25% of clinically used drugs [1] and some endogenous substances such as arachidonic acid [2]. The human CYP2C subfamily includes CYP2C8, CYP2C9, CYP2C18 and CYP2C19 that are homologous and share more than 80% amino acid sequence identity [3]. However, only CYP2C8, CYP2C9 and CYP2C19 are considered of clinical importance [4], since CYP2C18 mRNA is detected at relatively low amounts [5]. The entire *CYP2C* gene locus spans approximately 500 kb on chromosome 10 with the gene order Cen-2C18-2C19-2C9-2C8-Tel (Figure 1) and each of the genes consist of nine exons with conserved exon/intron boundaries [6]. CYP2C8, CYP2C9 and CYP2C19 exhibit clinically important genetic polymorphism as a result of single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) (www.cypalleles.ki.se).

CYP2C8 catalyzes the metabolism of several clinically used drugs such as the anti-cancer drug paclitaxel, the anti-arrhythmic drug amiodarone, the antidiabetic drug repagli and the thiazolidinediones rosiglitazone and troglitazone [7].

Fourteen allelic variants of CYP2C8 have been described of which some cause poor metabolism [8]. CYP2C8\*3 is a quantitatively and functionally relevant variant allele in the Caucasian population with a reported frequency of 10-23% but rare or absent in Asian and African populations [5]. CYP2C8\*3 is defined by two amino acid substitutions in exon 3 and exon 8 (Table 1), respectively, causing decreased paclitaxel turnover [9] and decreased paclitaxel clearance *in vivo* [10].

CYP2C9 is among the most important drug metabolizing enzymes in humans. It is involved in the metabolism of several important drugs including phenytoin, losartan, (*S*)-warfarin, tolbutamide and numerous NSAIDs [11]. Of the 34 allelic variants that have been described [12], the two clinically most important variant alleles are *CYP2C9\*2* and *CYP2C9\*3*, which both cause a defective CYP2C9 enzyme (Table 1)[13]. The allele frequencies of *CYP2C9\*2* and *CYP2C9\*3* are approximately 10-15% and 5-10%, respectively, in European populations [14].

CYP2C19 is another important drug metabolizing enzyme encoded by a highly polymorphic gene [15]. The racemic anticonvulsant drug mephenytoin is the classic probe drug where the 4-hydroxylation of the (S)-enantiomer is catalysed by CYP2C19. Furthermore, a range of clinically important drugs including diazepam,

omeprazole and other proton pump inhibitors, the antidepressants citalogram, escitalopram and imipramine, the antimalarial drugs proguanil and chlorproguanil, the β-adrenoceptor blocker propranolol, and the antiplatelet drug clopidogrel are metabolized or bioactivated by CYP2C19. Population studies have shown that individuals that are homozygous for the inactivating allele CYP2C19\*2 that leads to a splicing defect (Table 1), are phenotypic poor metabolizers of CYP2C19 substrates [5,16,17]. The CYP2C19 poor metabolizers only represent 3-5% of Caucasian populations, but is found in 12-23% of Asian populations [3]. In recent years, much attention has focused on the allele CYP2C19\*17 that correlates with high in vivo CYP2C19 activity and is present at an allele frequency of 18% in a Swedish healthy population [18]. The initial finding of a rapid drug metabolism phenotype was later supported by a clear association of lower plasma concentration of omeprazole and escitalopram in subjects homozygous for CYP2C19\*17 [19,20]. Interestingly, CYP2C19\*17 also leads to increased bioactivation of the antiplatelet drug clopidogrel that causes an almost 4-fold higher risk of bleeding complications in CYP2C19\*17 homozygotes, but no beneficial antithrombotic effect for patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention [21]. As opposed to subjects homozygous for the CYP2C19\*1 allele, subjects homozygous for CYP2C19\*17 display a very low interindividual variation in CYP2C19 metabolism [19,22]. The rapid phenotype caused by CYP2C19\*17 has been explained by a recruitment of transcription factor(s) by the -806C>T conversion (Table 1) in the gene promotor region that causes an increased transcriptional rate [18]. A hypothesis is that CYP2C19\*17 is also a haplotype marker within the CYP2C locus [19]. In fact, haplotype block structures at the CYP2C locus have been described [23,24]. Almost all subjects carrying CYP2C8\*3 also carry CYP2C9\*2 and three quarters of all subjects carrying CYP2C9\*2 also carry CYP2C8\*3 [25]. CYP2C19\*2 and CYP2C19\*3 has also been shown to be linked with CYP2C18 mutations in Japanese subjects [26].

The aim of this study was to determine important *CYP2C* genotypes with special focus on *CYP2C19\*17* in healthy Nordic populations, and to investigate the linkage disequilibrium between them.

**Comment [RP2]:** Detailed info about the allellic variant has been moved to Table 1

#### Methods

#### Samples

DNA samples from 276 healthy volunteers living around Odense in Denmark and previously genotyped for *CYP2C9\*2* and *CYP2C9\*3* [14], and 311 Faroese samples from healthy volunteers previously genotyped for *CYP2C8\*3*, *CYP2C9\*2*, *CYP2C9\*3* and *CYP2C19\*2* [27] were included in this study. Furthermore, DNA samples from 328 Norwegian Caucasian blood donors that had not been genotyped for *CYP2C* variants were included [28,29].

#### Genotyping

A total of 915 DNA samples from three different populations were available for genotyping and the aim was to cover the five clinically important *CYP2C* allelic variants; *CYP2C8\**, *CYP2C9\*2*, *CYP2C9\*3*, *CYP2C19\*2* and *CYP2C19\*17*. All 276 DNA samples from Denmark [14] were successfully genotyped for *CYP2C8\*3*, *CYP2C19\*2* and *CYP2C19\*17* and all the 311 Faroese samples were successfully genotyped for *CYP2C19\*17*. Of the 328 Norwegian DNA samples, 309 were successfully genotyped for all five *CYP2C* variants. The analyses were performed using Applied Biosystems TaqMan® SNP genotyping assays (Table 1) according to the guidelines and conducted on an Applied Biosystems StepOne Plus apparatus or an Applied Biosystems 7500 Real Time PCR apparatus.

**Comment [RP3]:** Info of the assays is presented in Talbe 1

#### Statistics

Possible deviation from Hardy Weinberg equilibrium was tested for each SNP with Pearsons Chi-Square test with a level of significance of 5%. Overall differences of allele frequencies between the populations were also tested by Chi-Squared test with a level of significance of 5%. "Head to head" comparison between the populations was tested with Fisher's exact test with a level of significance of 5%.

#### Linkage disequilibrium and haplotype inference

The software Haploview was used to visualize the structure of pair-wise linkage disequilibrium (LD) between the SNPs (in terms of Lewontin's D') [30]. Individual haplotypes were inferred by use of the five *CYP2C* SNPs and software package PHASE version 2.1 [31,32]. This software infers haplotypes from population genotype data using a Bayesian statistical method. We performed PHASE analyses

with default settings ten times with different random seed. Additionally, haplotype frequencies were estimated using the expectation maximation algorithm (EM) in STATA10 (StataCorp, Texas, USA).

#### Results

We performed genotyping of *CYP2C8\*3*, *CYP2C9\*2*, *CYP2C9\*3*, *CYP2C19\*2* and *CYP2C19\*17* in three different Nordic populations. The genotype and allele frequencies in the Danish, Faroese and Norwegian samples are presented in Table  $\underline{2}$ . All SNPs in all three populations were in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium displaying  $\chi^2$ -values less than 3.84.

An overall significant difference in allele frequency of *CYP2C19\*17* was found between the populations (P=0.010). The allele frequency of 15 % in the Faroese population (n=311) was lower than the 20% in the Danish population (n=276) (P=0.038) and the 22% in the Norwegian population (n=309, P=0.003). No statistically significant difference between the Danish and the Norwegian population was found. None of the four other SNPs displayed significantly different allele frequencies between the populations.

When analyzing all three populations, none of the 40 subjects homozygous for the rapid *CYP2C19\*17* allele carried the defective *CYP2C8\*3*, *CYP2C9\*2* or *CYP2C9\*3* alleles. In addition, none of the 9 subjects homozygous for *CYP2C8\*3* carried *CYP2C19\*17* and none of the 20 subjects homozygous for *CYP2C9\*2* and/or *CYP2C9\*3* carried *CYP2C19\*17*.

The linkage disequilibrium between the five analysed SNPs as based on Haploview calculations is visualized in Figure 2. The calculations show complete LD (D'=1) between *CYP2C19\*17* and the four other allelic variants. Complete linkage disequilibrium was also observed between *CYP2C19\*2* and the two CYP2C9 alleles *CYP2C9\*2* and *CYP2C9\*3*. The analysis also displays strong linkage disequilibrium between *CYP2C9\*2* and *CYP2C8\*3* (D'=0.92).

Ten *CYP2C* haplotypes were inferred (Table <u>3</u>). The *CYP2C* haplotype frequencies predicted by PHASE and STATA were almost identical. Six of the

haplotypes (No. 1-5 and 9) account for 99% of the haplotypes. The most frequent haplotype (No. 1) with an inferred frequency of 49% carries the *CYP2C8\*1*, *CYP2C9\*1* and *CYP2C19\*1* alleles. The second most frequent haplotype (No. 2) with an inferred frequency of 19% is composed by *CYP2C19\*17*, *CYP2C8\*1* and *CYP2C9\*1* wildtype alleles, and is representing 99.7% (342 out of 343) of all predicted *CYP2C19\*17*-containing haplotypes. In one Norwegian subject, a single variant haplotype with *CYP2C19\*17* in combination with *CYP2C8\*3* was inferred, thus leading to an estimated haplotype frequency of <0.001 in the total material of 896 subjects (Table 2). The previously reported linkage disequilibrium between *CYP2C9\*2* and *CYP2C8\*3* presented by Yasar *et al.* [25] was also supported by our data. In detail, 94% (144 out of 154) of the haplotypes with *CYP2C8\*3* were also predicted to carry *CYP2C9\*2*, and 79% (144 out of 183) of the haplotypes with *CYP2C9\*2* were also predicted to carry *CYP2C8\*3*.

#### Discussion

This study provides support to the hypothesis of a linkage disequilibrium between *CYP2C19\*17* and functional *CYP2C* alleles. This hypothesis was first expressed by Baldwin *et al.* [19] but was based on relatively limited data. Further indications can be found by reviewing the genotype information presented by Rudberg *et al.* [22]. In the present study, we found that *CYP2C19\*17* is predicted to be almost exclusively present together with wild type alleles of *CYP2C8* and *CYP2C9*, thus mediating rapid metabolism of CYP2C19 substrates and normal (mostly referred to as extensive) metabolism of CYP2C8 and CYP2C9 substrates.

The prediction of one haplotype out of the 343 *CYP2C19\*17*—containing haplotypes that exists in combination with *CYP2C8\*3* must be recognized. However the existence of these two variants on separate haplotypes is still a theoretic possibility, although predicted to be rare. Nevertheless, the clinical picture is clear showing that subjects with *CYP2C19\*17* that confers a rapid metabolism of CYP2C19 substrates, are likely to display extensive metabolic capacity toward other CYP2C substrates.

This study also confirms the linkage between CYP2C9\*2 and CYP2C8\*3 with similar

correlation percentages as previously shown by Yasar *et al.* [25]. Thus, poor metabolisers of CYP2C9 substrate drugs are also likely to poorly metabolise CYP2C8 substrates. It is interesting to note that across the three genes CYP2C19, CYP2C9 and CYP2C8, the five SNPs examined occur in six distinct haplotypes 99% of the time and further that these haplotypes exclusively carry none or just a single SNP except for haplotype No.9 characterized by two SNPs. This is in accordance with the notion that SNPs are introduced to the genome as a single mutation occurring at a single point in time in a single individual and vertically propagated to the population. In future pharmacogenetic studies it might be worthwhile to consider these haplotypes as an alternative to the individual SNPs as this approach might offer a more powerful design that can possibly reveal effects of interplay between *cis* variants, which is impossible in simple analysis of individual SNPs.

The current study supports the general assumption that the Nordic populations have a relatively similar distribution of cytochrome P450 genotypes. The CYP2C19\* Variele was first reported in Swedes with a frequency of 18% [18], but a recent study report a Swedish allele frequency of 20% [33]. The Norwegian CYP2C19\*17 allele frequency of 22% in the current study of healthy volunteers is identical with the reported frequency in 166 Norwegian psychiatric patients [22], and similar to that observed in the Danish subjects of the present study (20%). The Faroese population had a statistically significant lower allele frequency of 15%, but no correction for multiple testing was done. A similar allele frequency of 20% was found in Greek population [34] and in African populations: 18% in Ethiopians [18] and 17% in Ugandans [35]. In Asian populations very low frequencies of CYP2C19\*17 has been reported: 4% in Chinese [18], 1% in Japanese [36] and 0.3% in Koreans [33]. On the other hand, the frequency is apparently higher in Central Europe; 25% in a German breast cancer population [37] and 28% in a population of Polish peptic ulcer patients [38]. Overall, CYP2C19\*17 must be considered prevalent in all the Nordic populations studied here, and the frequency of subjects homozygous for CYP2C19\*17 only ranged from 3.5 to 5.1 % in the studied material.

**Comment [RP4]:** More info of CYP2C19\*17 allele freq in other populations

In conclusion, we have in the current study identified a common haplotype in the Nordic population carrying the *CYP2C19\*17*, *CYP2C8\*1* and *CYP2C9\*1* alleles, thus representing a haplotype encoding efficient metabolism of all drugs that are

substrates for CYP2C enzymes. The CYP2C19\*17 genotype could thus be used as a determinant for extensive metabolism of CYP2C substrates in Nordic subjects.

#### Acknowledgements

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Comment [RP5]: Six more ref.

# Linkage disequilibrium between the CYP2C19\*17 allele and wildtype CYP2C8 and CYP2C9 alleles: Identification of CYP2C haplotypes in healthy Nordic populations

Rasmus S. Pedersen<sup>1,2</sup>, Charlotte Brasch-Andersen<sup>1</sup> Sarah C. Sim<sup>2</sup>, Troels K. Bergmann<sup>1</sup>, Jónrit Halling<sup>1,3</sup>, Maria S. Petersen<sup>1,3</sup>, Pál Weihe<sup>3</sup>, Hege Edvardsen<sup>4,5</sup>, Vessela N. Kristensen<sup>4,5,6</sup>, Kim Brøsen<sup>1</sup> and Magnus Ingelman-Sundberg<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institute of Public Health, Clinical Pharmacology, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark

<sup>2</sup>Section of Pharmacogenetics, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

<sup>3</sup>Department of Occupational Medicines and Public Health, The Faroese Hospital System, Tòrshavn, Faroe Islands

<sup>4</sup>Department of Genetics, Institute of Cancer Research, Oslo University Hospital Radiumhospitalet, Oslo, Norway

<sup>5</sup>Institute of Clinical Medicine, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway

<sup>6</sup>EpiGen, Institute for Clinical Medicine, Akershus University Hospital, Oslo, Norway

#### Correspondence:

Rasmus Steen Pedersen, Institute of Public Health, Clinical Pharmacology, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark. E-mail: <a href="mailto:rpedersen@health.sdu.dk">rpedersen@health.sdu.dk</a>. Phone: +45 65503305. Fax: +45 65916089

#### **Abstract**

*Purpose*. To determine the distribution of clinically important *CYP2C* genotypes and allele frequencies in healthy Nordic populations with special focus on linkage disequilibrium.

Methods. 896 healthy subjects from three Nordic populations (Faroese, Danish and Norwegian) were genotyped for five frequent and clinically important CYP2C allelic variants: the defective CYP2C8\*3, CYP2C9\*2, CYP2C9\*3 and CYP2C19\*2 alleles, and the CYP2C19\*17 allele that causes rapid drug metabolism. Linkage disequilibrium was evaluated and CYP2C haplotypes were inferred in the entire population.

Results. Ten CYP2C haplotypes were inferred of which the most frequent (49%) was the CYP2C wildtype haplotype carrying CYP2C8\*1, CYP2C9\*1 and CYP2C19\*1. The second most frequent haplotype (19%) is composed by CYP2C19\*17, CYP2C8\*1 and CYP2C9\*1. This predicted haplotype accounts for 99.7% of the CYP2C19\*17 alleles found in the 896 subjects.

Conclusion. CYP2C19\*17 is a frequent genetic variant in Nordic populations that exists in strong linkage disequilibrium with wild type CYP2C8\*1 and CYP2C9\*1 alleles, which effectively makes it a determinant for a haplotype exhibiting efficient CYP2C substrate metabolism.

#### Introduction

Human cytochrome P450 2C (CYP2C) enzymes are responsible for the metabolism of approximately 25% of clinically used drugs [1] and some endogenous substances such as arachidonic acid [2]. The human CYP2C subfamily includes CYP2C8, CYP2C9, CYP2C18 and CYP2C19 that are homologous and share more than 80% amino acid sequence identity [3]. However, only CYP2C8, CYP2C9 and CYP2C19 are considered of clinical importance [4], since CYP2C18 mRNA is detected at relatively low amounts [5]. The entire *CYP2C* gene locus spans approximately 500 kb on chromosome 10 with the gene order Cen-2C18-2C19-2C9-2C8-Tel (Figure 1) and each of the genes consist of nine exons with conserved exon/intron boundaries [6]. CYP2C8, CYP2C9 and CYP2C19 exhibit clinically important genetic polymorphism as a result of single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) (www.cypalleles.ki.se).

CYP2C8 catalyzes the metabolism of several clinically used drugs such as the anti-cancer drug paclitaxel, the anti-arrhythmic drug amiodarone, the antidiabetic drug repaglinide, and the thiazolidinediones rosiglitazone and troglitazone [7]. Fourteen allelic variants of CYP2C8 have been described of which some cause poor metabolism [8]. *CYP2C8\*3* is a quantitatively and functionally relevant variant allele in the Caucasian population with a reported frequency of 10-23% but rare or absent in Asian and African populations [5]. *CYP2C8\*3* is defined by two amino acid substitutions in exon 3 and exon 8 (Table 1), respectively, causing decreased paclitaxel turnover [9] and decreased paclitaxel clearance *in vivo* [10].

CYP2C9 is among the most important drug metabolizing enzymes in humans. It is involved in the metabolism of several important drugs including phenytoin, losartan, (*S*)-warfarin, tolbutamide and numerous NSAIDs [11]. Of the 34 allelic variants that have been described [12], the two clinically most important variant alleles are *CYP2C9\*2* and *CYP2C9\*3*, which both cause a defective CYP2C9 enzyme (Table 1)[13]. The allele frequencies of *CYP2C9\*2* and *CYP2C9\*3* are approximately 10-15% and 5-10%, respectively, in European populations [14].

CYP2C19 is another important drug metabolizing enzyme encoded by a highly polymorphic gene [15]. The racemic anticonvulsant drug mephenytoin is the classic probe drug where the 4-hydroxylation of the (*S*)-enantiomer is catalysed by CYP2C19. Furthermore, a range of clinically important drugs including diazepam,

omeprazole and other proton pump inhibitors, the antidepressants citalogram, escitalopram and imipramine, the antimalarial drugs proguanil and chlorproguanil, the β-adrenoceptor blocker propranolol, and the antiplatelet drug clopidogrel are metabolized or bioactivated by CYP2C19. Population studies have shown that individuals that are homozygous for the inactivating allele CYP2C19\*2 that leads to a splicing defect (Table 1), are phenotypic poor metabolizers of CYP2C19 substrates [5,16,17]. The CYP2C19 poor metabolizers only represent 3-5% of Caucasian populations, but is found in 12-23% of Asian populations [3]. In recent years, much attention has focused on the allele CYP2C19\*17 that correlates with high in vivo CYP2C19 activity and is present at an allele frequency of 18% in a Swedish healthy population [18]. The initial finding of a rapid drug metabolism phenotype was later supported by a clear association of lower plasma concentration of omeprazole and escitalopram in subjects homozygous for CYP2C19\*17 [19,20]. Interestingly, CYP2C19\*17 also leads to increased bioactivation of the antiplatelet drug clopidogrel that causes an almost 4-fold higher risk of bleeding complications in CYP2C19\*17 homozygotes, but no beneficial antithrombotic effect for patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention [21]. As opposed to subjects homozygous for the CYP2C19\*1 allele, subjects homozygous for CYP2C19\*17 display a very low interindividual variation in CYP2C19 metabolism [19,22]. The rapid phenotype caused by CYP2C19\*17 has been explained by a recruitment of transcription factor(s) by the -806C>T conversion (Table 1) in the gene promotor region that causes an increased transcriptional rate [18]. A hypothesis is that CYP2C19\*17 is also a haplotype marker within the CYP2C locus [19]. In fact, haplotype block structures at the CYP2C locus have been described [23,24]. Almost all subjects carrying CYP2C8\*3 also carry CYP2C9\*2 and three quarters of all subjects carrying CYP2C9\*2 also carry CYP2C8\*3 [25]. CYP2C19\*2 and CYP2C19\*3 has also been shown to be linked with CYP2C18 mutations in Japanese subjects [26].

The aim of this study was to determine important *CYP2C* genotypes with special focus on *CYP2C19\*17* in healthy Nordic populations, and to investigate the linkage disequilibrium between them.

#### Methods

#### Samples

DNA samples from 276 healthy volunteers living around Odense in Denmark and previously genotyped for *CYP2C9\*2* and *CYP2C9\*3* [14], and 311 Faroese samples from healthy volunteers previously genotyped for *CYP2C8\*3*, *CYP2C9\*2*, *CYP2C9\*3* and *CYP2C19\*2* [27] were included in this study. Furthermore, DNA samples from 328 Norwegian Caucasian blood donors that had not been genotyped for *CYP2C* variants were included [28,29].

#### Genotyping

A total of 915 DNA samples from three different populations were available for genotyping and the aim was to cover the five clinically important *CYP2C* allelic variants; *CYP2C8\**, *CYP2C9\*2*, *CYP2C9\*3*, *CYP2C19\*2* and *CYP2C19\*17*. All 276 DNA samples from Denmark [14] were successfully genotyped for *CYP2C8\*3*, *CYP2C19\*2* and *CYP2C19\*17* and all the 311 Faroese samples were successfully genotyped for *CYP2C19\*17*. Of the 328 Norwegian DNA samples, 309 were successfully genotyped for all five *CYP2C* variants. The analyses were performed using Applied Biosystems TaqMan® SNP genotyping assays (Table 1) according to the guidelines and conducted on an Applied Biosystems StepOne Plus apparatus or an Applied Biosystems 7500 Real Time PCR apparatus.

#### **Statistics**

Possible deviation from Hardy Weinberg equilibrium was tested for each SNP with Pearsons Chi-Square test with a level of significance of 5%. Overall differences of allele frequencies between the populations were also tested by Chi-Squared test with a level of significance of 5%. "Head to head" comparison between the populations was tested with Fisher's exact test with a level of significance of 5%.

#### Linkage disequilibrium and haplotype inference

The software Haploview was used to visualize the structure of pair-wise linkage disequilibrium (LD) between the SNPs (in terms of Lewontin's D') [30]. Individual haplotypes were inferred by use of the five *CYP2C* SNPs and software package PHASE version 2.1 [31,32]. This software infers haplotypes from population genotype data using a Bayesian statistical method. We performed PHASE analyses

with default settings ten times with different random seed. Additionally, haplotype frequencies were estimated using the expectation maximation algorithm (EM) in STATA10 (StataCorp, Texas, USA).

#### **Results**

We performed genotyping of CYP2C8\*3, CYP2C9\*2, CYP2C9\*3, CYP2C19\*2 and CYP2C19\*17 in three different Nordic populations. The genotype and allele frequencies in the Danish, Faroese and Norwegian samples are presented in Table 2. All SNPs in all three populations were in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium displaying  $\chi^2$ -values less than 3.84.

An overall significant difference in allele frequency of *CYP2C19\*17* was found between the populations (P=0.010). The allele frequency of 15 % in the Faroese population (n=311) was lower than the 20% in the Danish population (n=276) (P=0.038) and the 22% in the Norwegian population (n=309, P=0.003). No statistically significant difference between the Danish and the Norwegian population was found. None of the four other SNPs displayed significantly different allele frequencies between the populations.

When analyzing all three populations, none of the 40 subjects homozygous for the rapid *CYP2C19\*17* allele carried the defective *CYP2C8\*3*, *CYP2C9\*2* or *CYP2C9\*3* alleles. In addition, none of the 9 subjects homozygous for *CYP2C8\*3* carried *CYP2C19\*17* and none of the 20 subjects homozygous for *CYP2C9\*2* and/or *CYP2C9\*3* carried *CYP2C19\*17*.

The linkage disequilibrium between the five analysed SNPs as based on Haploview calculations is visualized in Figure 2. The calculations show complete LD (D'=1) between *CYP2C19\*17* and the four other allelic variants. Complete linkage disequilibrium was also observed between *CYP2C19\*2* and the two CYP2C9 alleles *CYP2C9\*2* and *CYP2C9\*3*. The analysis also displays strong linkage disequilibrium between *CYP2C9\*2* and *CYP2C8\*3* (D'=0.92).

Ten *CYP2C* haplotypes were inferred (Table 3). The *CYP2C* haplotype frequencies predicted by PHASE and STATA were almost identical. Six of the

haplotypes (No.1-5 and 9) account for 99% of the haplotypes. The most frequent haplotype (No. 1) with an inferred frequency of 49% carries the *CYP2C8\*1*, *CYP2C9\*1* and *CYP2C19\*1* alleles. The second most frequent haplotype (No. 2) with an inferred frequency of 19% is composed by *CYP2C19\*17*, *CYP2C8\*1* and *CYP2C9\*1* wildtype alleles, and is representing 99.7% (342 out of 343) of all predicted *CYP2C19\*17*-containing haplotypes. In one Norwegian subject, a single variant haplotype with *CYP2C19\*17* in combination with *CYP2C8\*3* was inferred, thus leading to an estimated haplotype frequency of <0.001 in the total material of 896 subjects (Table 2). The previously reported linkage disequilibrium between *CYP2C9\*2* and *CYP2C8\*3* presented by Yasar *et al.* [25] was also supported by our data. In detail, 94% (144 out of 154) of the haplotypes with *CYP2C8\*3* were also predicted to carry *CYP2C9\*2*, and 79% (144 out of 183) of the haplotypes with *CYP2C9\*2* were also predicted to carry *CYP2C8\*3*.

#### **Discussion**

This study provides support to the hypothesis of a linkage disequilibrium between *CYP2C19\*17* and functional *CYP2C* alleles. This hypothesis was first expressed by Baldwin *et al.* [19] but was based on relatively limited data. Further indications can be found by reviewing the genotype information presented by Rudberg *et al.* [22]. In the present study, we found that *CYP2C19\*17* is predicted to be almost exclusively present together with wild type alleles of *CYP2C8* and *CYP2C9*, thus mediating rapid metabolism of CYP2C19 substrates and normal (mostly referred to as extensive) metabolism of CYP2C8 and CYP2C9 substrates.

The prediction of one haplotype out of the 343 *CYP2C19\*17*—containing haplotypes that exists in combination with *CYP2C8\*3* must be recognized. However the existence of these two variants on separate haplotypes is still a theoretic possibility, although predicted to be rare. Nevertheless, the clinical picture is clear showing that subjects with *CYP2C19\*17* that confers a rapid metabolism of CYP2C19 substrates, are likely to display extensive metabolic capacity toward other CYP2C substrates.

This study also confirms the linkage between CYP2C9\*2 and CYP2C8\*3 with similar

correlation percentages as previously shown by Yasar *et al.* [25]. Thus, poor metabolisers of CYP2C9 substrate drugs are also likely to poorly metabolise CYP2C8 substrates. It is interesting to note that across the three genes CYP2C19, CYP2C9 and CYP2C8, the five SNPs examined occur in six distinct haplotypes 99% of the time and further that these haplotypes exclusively carry none or just a single SNP except for haplotype No.9 characterized by two SNPs. This is in accordance with the notion that SNPs are introduced to the genome as a single mutation occurring at a single point in time in a single individual and vertically propagated to the population. In future pharmacogenetic studies it might be worthwhile to consider these haplotypes as an alternative to the individual SNPs as this approach might offer a more powerful design that can possibly reveal effects of interplay between *cis* variants, which is impossible in simple analysis of individual SNPs.

The current study supports the general assumption that the Nordic populations have a relatively similar distribution of cytochrome P450 genotypes. The CYP2C19\*17 allele was first reported in Swedes with a frequency of 18% [18], but a recent study report a Swedish allele frequency of 20% [33]. The Norwegian CYP2C19\*17 allele frequency of 22% in the current study of healthy volunteers is identical with the reported frequency in 166 Norwegian psychiatric patients [22], and similar to that observed in the Danish subjects of the present study (20%). The Faroese population had a statistically significant lower allele frequency of 15%, but no correction for multiple testing was done. A similar allele frequency of 20% was found in Greek population [34] and in African populations: 18% in Ethiopians [18] and 17% in Ugandans [35]. In Asian populations very low frequencies of CYP2C19\*17 has been reported: 4% in Chinese [18], 1% in Japanese [36] and 0.3% in Koreans [33]. On the other hand, the frequency is apparently higher in Central Europe; 25% in a German breast cancer population [37] and 28% in a population of Polish peptic ulcer patients [38]. Overall, CYP2C19\*17 must be considered prevalent in all the Nordic populations studied here, and the frequency of subjects homozygous for CYP2C19\*17 only ranged from 3.5 to 5.1 % in the studied material.

In conclusion, we have in the current study identified a common haplotype in the Nordic population carrying the *CYP2C19\*17*, *CYP2C8\*1* and *CYP2C9\*1* alleles, thus representing a haplotype encoding efficient metabolism of all drugs that are

substrates for CYP2C enzymes. The CYP2C19\*17 genotype could thus be used as a determinant for extensive metabolism of CYP2C substrates in Nordic subjects.

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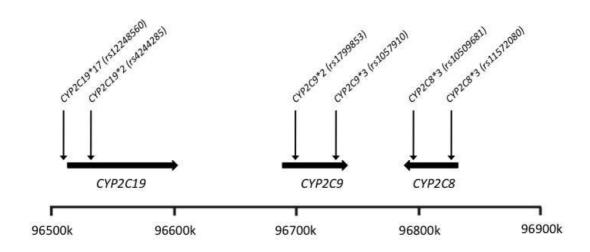
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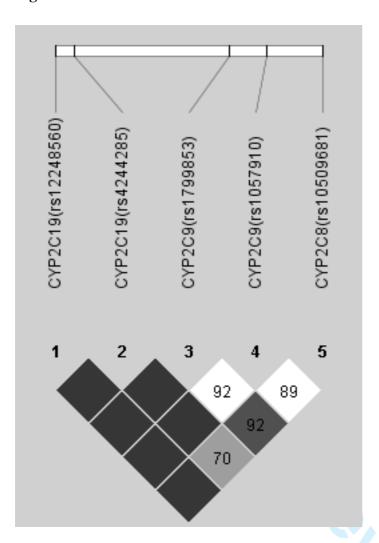
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Figure 1



The organisation of *CYP2C19*, *CYP2C9*, and *CYP2C8* genes on chromosome 10 as based on the human genome map found at <a href="www.ncbi.nlm.nih">www.ncbi.nlm.nih</a> (build 36.3). Thin arrows indicate the position of the allelic variants analyzed. Thick arrows represent the genes studied <a href="indicating the direction of gene transcription">indicating the direction of gene transcription</a>.

Figure 2



The linkage disequilibrium (LD) map of the 5 SNPs analysed in the current study was created using Haploview. The dark squares without numbers show complete LD (D'=1, LOD >3.6).

**Table 1**The studied *CYP2C* allelic variants

CYP allele	rs number			TaqMan® Assay Number
CYP2C19*17	rs12248560	-806C>T	Ile <sub>331</sub> →Val	C469857_10
CYP2C19*2	rs4244285	19154G>A	Splicing defect	C25986767_70
CYP2C9*2	rs1799853	3608C>T	Arg <sub>144</sub> →Lys	C25986767_10
CYP2C9*3	rs1057910	42614A>C	Ile <sub>359</sub> →Leu	C27104892_10
CYP2C8*3	rs10509681	40411A>G	Lys <sub>399</sub> →Arg	C25625782_20
CYP2C8*3	rs11572080	2130G>A	Arg <sub>139</sub> →Lys	Not tested

Table 2

Genotype and allele frequencies of *CYP2C8*, *CYP2C9* and *CYP2C19* allelic SNPs in Danish, Faroese and Norwegian subjects.

	Danish		Faro	ese	Norwegian	
CYP2C8	Number of subjects	Frequency	Number of subjects	Frequency	Number of subjects	Frequency
CYP2C8*1/*1	226	0.819	268	0.862	257	0.832
CYP2C8*1/*3	45	0.163	43	0.138	48	0.155
CYP2C8*3/*3	5	0.018	0	0.000	4	0.013
Allele	Number of alleles	Frequency	Number of alleles	Frequency	Number of alleles	Frequency
CYP2C8*1	497	0.900	579	0.931	562	0.909
CYP2C8*3	55	0.100	43	0.069	56	0.091
СҮР2С9	Number of subjects	Frequency	Number of subjects	Frequency	Number of subjects	Frequency
CYP2C9*1/*1	190	0.688	228	0.733	213	0.689
CYP2C9*1/*2	53	0.192	50	0.161	55	0.178
CYP2C9*1/*3	23	0.083	28	0.090	36	0.117
CYP2C9*2/*2	4	0.014	0	0.000	2	0.007
CYP2C9*3/*3	0	0.000	0	0.000	1	0.003
CYP2C9*2/*3	6	0.022	5	0.016	2	0.007
Allele	Number of alleles	Frequency	Number of alleles	Frequency	Number of alleles	Frequency
CYP2C9*1	456	0.826	534	0.859	517	0.837
CYP2C9*2	67	0.121	55	0.088	61	0.099
CYP2C9*3	29	0.053	33	0.053	40	0.065
CYP2C19	Number of subjects	Frequency	Number of subjects	Frequency	Number of subjects	Frequency
CYP2C19*1/*1	122	0.442	143	0.460	122	0.395
CYP2C19*1/*2	51	0.185	73	0.235	62	0.201
CYP2C19*1/*17	63	0.228	51	0.164	82	0.265
CYP2C19*2/*2	6	0.022	10	0.032	4	0.013
CYP2C19*17/*17	14	0.051	11	0.035	15	0.049
CYP2C19*2/*17	20	0.073	23	0.074	24	0.078
Allele	Number of alleles	Frequency	Number of alleles	Frequency	Number of alleles	Frequency
CYP2C19*1	358	0.649	410	0.659	388	0.628
CYP2C19*2	83	0.150	116	0.187	94	0.152
CYP2C19*17	111	0.201	96	0.154	136	0.220

**Table 3**Frequency of the 10 haplotypes inferred in the entire study of 896 subjects.

Haplotype No.	CYP2C19*17	CYP2C19*2	CYP2C9*2	CYP2C9*3	CYP2C8*3	Number of haplotypes	PHASE frequency	STATA frequency
1	-		-	-	-	869	0.4862	0.4866
2	$\sqrt{}$		-	-	-	342	0.1901	0.1902
3	-	V	_	-	-	286	0.1589	0.1595
4	-	-	$\sqrt{}$	-	-	39	0.0218	0.0219
5	-	-		$\checkmark$	-	102	0.0562	0.0558
6	-	-	- 6	<del>-</del>	$\checkmark$	4	0.0023	0.0023
7	$\sqrt{}$	-	_		$\sqrt{}$	1	0.0006	8.3E-30
8	-	$\sqrt{}$	-	-16	$\sqrt{}$	5	0.0026	0.0027
9	-	-	$\checkmark$	_ `	$\sqrt{}$	142	0.0787	0.0791
10	-	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	-	V	2	0.0012	0.0001